

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

Vol. 5.

BENTON, MO., MARCH 10, 1906.

No. 17.

## EVERYTHING IS FREE.

The Kicker does not waste much time with the doings at Washington, but things are so rotten over there that I have to give my Republican friends an occasional object lesson so that they may see that their crowd is as bad as can be.

The post office department is in the hole up to the neck. To attract public attention away from the real cause it was announced that newspapers were abusing the second-class mail matter privileges and postmasters were notified to "tighten up" on them.

One trouble is that there are too many railroad attorneys in charge at Washington, and the government pays the railroads four times as much for hauling the mails as the express companies pay for hauling express matter.

Another trouble is the abuse of the franking privilege of government officials. They can send an iron safe across the country BY MAIL—free. You cannot send exceeding five pounds. The reason for this is that the government officials have also franking privileges over express lines and the express companies prefer that they use the mails. But you have no such privilege and the express companies want you to patronize them.

A franking privilege is a permit to use the service free. All government officials, including senators and congressmen, have it. Is it any wonder they oppose public ownership. It costs them nothing for express, telegraph, mail or railroad fare. What better could they ask? As to railroad fare, if one is high enough upon a supreme judge, cabinet officer or president, for instance—a special train is furnished.

Testifying before the house committees on postoffices and post roads, Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general, said that indiscriminate use of the government free mail envelope by various executive departments of the government was one of the chief causes of the postal deficit. He said that typewriters, billiard tables, desks, chairs, lounges, carpets, book-cases, and heavy steel safes were sent on mail cars free at all times of the year, and that it happened that much of these heavy shipments were made during the period when the mails were weighed for ninety days in order to determine the basis of compensation to railroads. Mr. Madden said that in 1899 this government free matter, exclusive of bags and wrappings, constituted 12.58 per cent. of the entire weight carried. Postmaster General Cortelyou, he said, had estimated that in 1904 the government lost in round numbers \$20,000,000 by this free matter.

Twenty million dollars a year, Mr. Taxpayer, is what it costs you for the "free" mail service your servants at Washington have inaugurated for themselves. You have the word of the third assistant postmaster general for it—and I am sure he wouldn't have told it if there had been any way around it.

Your servants can send billiard tables, desks, lounges and carpets by mail without cost to them, while you have the privilege of sending not exceeding five pounds—if you pay in advance.

Great system, eh? Well, that is what you have been voting for, and I reckon you'll keep it up. Just vote 'er straight.

## THE DEADLY PARALLEL.

The way to best get people to see straight is to point out parallel cases with a directly opposite result. Pat Crow, who kidnapped millionaire Cudahy's boy and held him for \$25,000 ransom, was tried at Omaha, Neb., by a jury and acquitted. Of course the millionaire press of the country is indignant at the verdict, and "prominent citizens" of Omaha have notified the jurors to leave, claiming that they are "enemies of law and order and in sympathy with crime and criminals."

Of course this sounds very bad—to the jurymen. There has been no evidence of bribery or "fixing," but the jury just turned the prisoner loose. And the whole country—that is to say, the "respectable" element—feels outraged. A rich man's boy can be stolen and nobody imprisoned.

Now let us look at the other side of the picture and we may be able to understand why such a verdict is possible. A millionaire's ransom is caught red-handed with the loot on him and is dragged into court. There is no escaping the penalty if the law is applied. The jury hears the evidence and would fix him plenty if permitted to do so.

But how does the matter wind up? Why, the judge instructs the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty!

And do you ever hear of the newspapers or "respectable elements" ordering the judge to leave the country?

## HE PETITIONS HIMSELF.

We all know that the men who have been the most successful in politics are those who are called "conservative." They keep a closed mouth on all local matters where public opinion is divided. If they can discover which is the heavy side you will catch them flopping over to it, but until such discovery is made you will find them serenely perched on the top rail of the fence with a leg hanging on either side.

It seems to me that public men should have and express opinions on public matters. They have better opportunities to investigate and should therefore be better posted than the average citizen. The policy of "say nothing and hold onto the job" is not sound. People should know where their servants stand on all matters public. It helps them to determine what sort of servants they have and what they stand for.

In Scott County I have passed through local option fights, county seat removal fights and political struggles of every kind, but the man who has the distinction of holding office longer than any other man in the state could never be located anywhere at any time—except on the top rail.

The fights that caused the greatest amount of bitterness were the liquor fights. From all of these the county clerk has emerged with the friendship of the preachers and saloon-keepers alike—especially the saloon-keepers. I couldn't understand it. Beyond an occasional glass of beer at rare intervals he does not indulge, and cannot be regarded as desirable by the saloons from that point of view. Although he never signs a petition the local saloon has always fought for his reelection harder than any other candidate. I wondered how he got around signing the petition and yet retained the friendship of the saloon. So, one day, I asked him why he refused to sign petitions. "I never sign any petition that comes before this court," said he, "because it might be construed as unduly influencing the court."

I saw the point. While it was only his duty to record what the court did, yet the ignorant public might accuse him of influencing the action of the court by signing a request to do so-and-so. The clerk was right. Even with this great precaution on his part I have heard many ignorant lubbers intimate that he was "the court."

However, I admire the clerk's good judgment in refusing to sign petitions that come before the court. It is entirely proper and does not interfere with his position on the top rail. But I did feel somewhat outraged when our prosecuting attorney eased up on his church and Sunday school work and began signing saloon petitions. He is the legal adviser of the court, and if the clerk's signature might be construed as unduly influencing the court, how about the prosecuting attorney?

But now comes the limit. The W. C. T. U. of Oran, has had published the names of the signers of the Oran saloon petitions. Unless it is a forgery there appears the name of citizen and tax-payer Charles E. Moore petitioning County Judge Charles E. Moore to grant dramshop license to Oran applicants.

Let us reverently doff our hats to the county clerk. He seems to be the only one who fears that his signature might influence the court.

## A noble trait of character.

**A FARMER WANTS TO KNOW.**  
Ilmo, Mo., March 5, 1906.  
Editor Kicker:—I take the liberty to write you for some information concerning the Scott county and Cape Girardeau toll road. They have regulations that permits one to go the round trip for 25 cents, while others must pay double this amount.

A farmer with produce gets the cut rate, while one with an empty wagon must pay the fare—25 cents each way for team and wagon. Who is to judge the quantity of produce that is required to entitle one to travel on half fare?

To make a long story short, will you please look up the law on toll roads and publish the facts? I think if the matter was agitated, some means might be found for doing away with the graft. I am told that the old charter expired in February, 1904, but by some means the matter got into court, and I am told by an official of the company that no decision will be reached for about three years—the supreme court being just that far behind with its work.

If you would write to Jefferson City and get the facts and find some way of doing away with this highway robbery, you would receive the thanks of one-half the people of Scott county. I am told that the company will extend its road to Rockview and Chaffee. That will be fat picking for the company. Respectfully,

JOHN T. BOSS.

Much as the Kicker would like to earn and deserve the thanks of one-half the people of Scott county, I know it would be only a waste of postage to write to Jefferson City.

And as for the law—what do corporations care for the law?

Louis Houck, I believe, is the boss of the road. The charter expired as stated by Mr. Boss, and suit was brought to make him open up and let go. He lost and appealed to mamma. And mamma is good to the corporations.

The money collected from the people will pay all the court expenses and yet leave thousands upon thousands of dollars as profit for the stockholders of the road. If they held their patrons up at the muzzle of a gun and extracted the amounts that are collected at the toll gates, the business, in my judgment, would be just as honorable.

Supreme courts are always away behind with their business where a corporation is holding up the people and wants delay. But when a decision is necessary to steal an election in St. Louis, it can be ground out over night. The company will surely lose its case in the end, but when will the end come? In the mean time the people must stand and deliver.

There are but two ways out. One is to do as was done on the Bloomfield road—tear the gates down. That, of course, is anarchy and you might have to go to jail. Jails are built for such as you, but not for such as own the road. They have influence and take an active part in manipulating politics so that their friends—and not yours—are placed in power. To hold you up is not a violation of law. But to tear down the gate is.

The other method is simple, but might prove ineffective. As I said before, the company will lose in the end—bound to. Now let every farmer who passes over the road pay under protest. Refuse to pay and make it so hot and uncomfortable for the hirings that are set up to collect, that none will want the job. But keep within the law, or else you'll go to jail. When they refuse to let you through without pay, just put the date and amount down in a little book and when the suit is finally decided you can recover every cent—for it has been illegally taken.

If everybody did this for a few months the company would understand what it meant and would not keep up the road and pay men to collect money that they know must be returned.

To make this plan effective it would be necessary to call a meeting of the farmers that use the road so as to act effectively.

Binder twine can be had at the public factory at Jefferson City for 84 cents per pound. Farmers who are in the habit of paying ten and eleven cents had better arrange for their twine from the State factory. Before the twine trust was organized farmers bought twine for five cents. This ought to convince them how the tariff and the resultant trusts help them.

## THIS IS REMARKABLE.

Gov. Dawson, of West Virginia, sent a letter to the United States Senate asking relief from railroad oppression in his state. What is so remarkable is the fact that West Virginia has two senators at Washington, yet the governor would not trust these, but sent his letter to Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, who read the letter before the senate, from which the following is taken:

"West Virginia today is in the grasp of a railroad trust which practically owns what part of the State shall be developed and what shall not be developed; how much coal shall be shipped out of the State, to what parts or points it shall be shipped, and when it shall be shipped.

Commenting on this letter, Lincoln Stephens writes in the Post-Dispatch: "Isn't that a humiliating confession for the elected governor of a community of Americans to make? Why doesn't Mr. Dawson enforce the laws of his state? He answers in the same letter: 'We have some laws in this State bearing on that subject (railroad rate discrimination), but it is inadequate, and we have no means of enforcing it.' Doesn't that sound American? Why doesn't he recommend to his legislature an adequate law? Well, we can guess why—legislatures rarely represent the common interests of their States. But why doesn't the Governor appeal to his people?"

"Our people are helpless," he answers, and I have heard that cry in many States and in many cities of the United States. And it's false. "Our people" are not helpless. In West Virginia they are corrupt. Oh, not all of them—no, God forbid. But an effective minority sell their votes for cash at the polls in West Virginia, and that's why Gov. Dawson of West Virginia sits down on his humiliation and, to the humiliation of his people, writes his plea for help to a United States Senator.

"And what Senator? Not to one of his own. West Virginia has two representatives in the United States Senate—Elkins and Scott—but Mr. Dawson can't expect help from them. He writes to the Senator from South Carolina—Hon. Benjamin R. Tillman. He hardly knows him. 'I do not know that you remember me,' he says. 'I met you at a dinner given by Senator Scott two years ago.' So he knows Scott well; and he knows Elkins, too. They are the State leaders of his party, yet he writes to a Democrat from South Carolina. Why?"

"Because the corrupted government and the corrupting businesses of West Virginia are organized into what is called a 'Hog Combine,' and the Senators from West Virginia boss and they represent this 'Hog Combine' of alien corporations and coal land grafters."

Usual by this time the Republic has all the Democratic candidates selected. What's wrong?

## HAS A BIG JOB.

Gov. Davis, of Arkansas, has undertaken a big job. He has given the gamblers of Hot Springs until April 1 to pack up and get out, and he says the saloons must close on Sundays. To the Arkansas Gazette he writes:

"In order that there may be no question as to my intention in this matter, I beg to inform you that I now give to the gamblers and pool-room keepers of Hot Springs 30 days' notice to pull up stakes and quit. If they do not do so I will, on April 1, employ the strong arm of the law for their suppression. I hope that it will not be necessary to resort to extreme measures, but if the Sheriff refuses to serve warrants, make arrests and close these places, I will do so with the military arm of the government, if necessary."

"I will appoint no more Prosecuting Attorney who will not lend me his earnest and active assistance. I desire to call attention to the fact that the constitution and laws of this State only require that a Prosecuting Attorney be a resident, and not a citizen, and qualified elector of the district in which he serves. I shall not appoint any man in Hot Springs or Garland County. I may be forced to the necessity of appointing a nonresident. At any rate, unless the gamblers are stronger than the law, they must go from Hot Springs."

Here is a nice state of affairs. Hot Springs is about all there is of Garland county. It is a city of about 30,000 inhabitants and lives chiefly off the sick and afflicted. The law of Arkansas is as strict against gambling as is the law of Missouri, yet the authorities of Hot Springs license gambling.

The town is run by saloon-keepers, gamblers and crooks. These elect the officials and it seems that of the many lawyers there, the governor cannot find one that he is willing to trust.

When Gov. Davis goes up against Hot Springs he will find his hands full. All the influence of the wealthy and powerful will be against him. These own the buildings in which the saloons, gambling dens and dives are conducted, and no other business could pay as high rent.

But Gov. Davis has a reputation for doing things, and he will use the militia if necessary.

When Lee Meriwether contested the election of Rolla Wells five years ago the Supreme court of Missouri held that the ballot boxes could not be opened for recount. Last week the same court reversed itself and Rolla is having his election of last year uncovered. But the contestant is a Republican—and so is Rolla—and the chances are that the whole thing will be covered up and dropped.

If John D. Rockefeller is successful in evading the officers that pretend they are looking for him, it will be in order for him to contribute another million or two to churches and schools so his newspapers can tell about it what a good Christian he is.

## WE WERE SPARED SOME.

The marriage of Miss Wilhelmina Busch, daughter of the millionaire brewer, to Eduard Scherer, a German hop dealer, was pulled off in California Saturday, and the readers of the daily press were spared some of the lack of the usual amount of slobber allotted to such occasions. Only a moderate amount was dished up. This may be accounted for because of the sensational report last Christmas that the "distinguished couple" registered at a Belleville, Ill., hotel as man and wife.

The press dispatches say that the pair will tour California in Mr. Busch's private car. The daughters and sons of the men who spend the nickels and dimes across the bar to pay for this private car usually take their bridal tour in a farm wagon.

Mr. Busch owns a castle in Germany, one in California, one in St. Louis and others. He has palatial homes in plenty. But how many of his best customers have no homes at all? He has a brewery that cost millions—all of which represents tears, suffering, and the destruction and destruction of once happy homes. Old man W. J. Lemp, founder of the Lemp brewery, committed suicide in his palatial home at St. Louis about a year ago. No cause was assigned. Evidently the man had a conscience and a heart in him that could not be tempered to approve of modern methods.

"But what would we do for revenue?" shouts the pin-headed defender of the license system. Ask Kelo township. Those people voted to retain the saloon. There are now about twenty saloons in that township—and yet they are not happy. Their roads were never in worse condition. License or special tax breeds monopoly. Monopoly breeds adulterated goods and high prices. Both are wrong—and wrong does not improve with age.

I am opposed to the entire license system. If the booze traffic is right it should not be taxed any more than any other traffic. If it is wrong, taxing it does not make it right.

I am opposed to all indirect tax. Let the people know what they are paying to the support of the government. In that way they will be better able to judge the size of the rascals that are running their government.

The average "good customer" of a saloon will spend, say \$300 a year. The net cost of the booze he consumes is about \$15. The bulk of the remainder is a tax-license. If he had to pay that in a lump sum to a tax collector for the privilege of living in a "free" country, what a howl he would raise. He wouldn't stand it.

The liquor tax was adopted in this country for war revenue in the '90s. We have paid billions upon billions across the bar and the debt is greater today than at the close of the war. Where does that money go?

Under the hypocritical pretense of aiding temperance, the hirings of the liquor interests advocate license, and well meaning people join in the crusade. Yet it is a fact that in every country where the license system prevails there is excessive drunkenness as compared with the countries where the traffic is free.

Remove the tax in the United States and nine-tenths of the saloons will disappear within a year. The opportunity for profit would be wiped out. And the brewers and distillers would cease to connect themselves with other monopolies in running our government.

License is the foundation upon which the present liquor traffic rests. Destroy the foundation, and down comes the structure.

## HERE THEY ARE.

The saloon petition of A. L. Daniel was filed Friday evening March 2, and forthwith Presiding Judge Lambert ordered a special term of his court to be held at Benton, March 12. Here are the petitioners:

V. L. Harris, recorder; R. L. Stubbins, circuit clerk; W. H. H. Hutkins, county treasurer; Joe F. Watkins, sheriff; M. C. Murray, deputy surveyor; Arthur Chrismon, collector; B. F. Wilkerson, deputy sheriff; R. A. Kingsbury, probate clerk; E. M. Moore, deputy collector; John Lamb, W. W. Robertson, Dan Cannon, W. C. Thomas, Emil Steck, Glenn Adams, H. Humphrey, John Freund, Leo Fornes, Chap Wade, Mary E. Glasetter, J. W. Wilson, O. H. Puls, L. S. Brock, C. F. Bonnellon, Clarence Johnson, R. M. Timmerstein, Wm. Rietig, W. H. Heiserer, Ed. Trunkler, Lorraine Diebold, Robt. Adams, Julia E. Daniel, W. T. Hale, Paul C. Kirsch, Robert Cannon, James P. Norrid, Mrs. M. Fornes, Mrs. C. Bollin, T. J. Adams, A. L. Daniel, John Glasetter, Henry Shamley, Sam Worley, A. L. Daniel, guardian Lizzie A. Daniel, James Walker.

It would be an awful thing to have the saloon here closed during a campaign. How could the "party" do business with its headquarters shut up? Perish the thought! And then we must have revenue!

## JUST THINK A BIT.

I want to open the eyes of the people of Oran just a little bit. I can't say that I am sorry for them—for they want saloon government and have got it—and are threatened with more. But I want to ask them to pause a moment and ask themselves this question: "Is it proper for an upstart, with a record that would put a skunk to rout, to upbraid a man bearing his three score years and ten?"

And why? All because Mr. Allen is the Oran correspondent for the Kicker. I was once an organ grinder myself and had some differences with Mr. Allen. So long as he trotted with the gang that was opposed to Hafner he was all right. You could see him and Billy come over, arm in arm, as delegates representing Sylvania township to quite all conventions. At the county convention Mr. Allen would be selected as a delegate to the state, congressional or senatorial conventions by the court house bunch. He was always a staunch supporter of Senator Marshall and stood aced high with the gang until one day he and I met and agreed to let by-gones be by-gones. I recognized his ability as a newgatherer and a few months ago arranged with him to write for the Kicker. Efforts were made to get him to quit, but he refused—and trouble began.

What I want the people of Oran to do is to keep under the cover. The "respectable" never play their hand on top the table. And I don't want you to blame the upstart. He doesn't know any better and is eating regularly—something he has not always been able to do. But I want to impress upon you that Mr. Allen is the same man today that he was when they selected him as THEIR MAN for delegate. Keep saying this over to yourself.

Then I have something else I want you to keep saying over to yourself. Four years ago Mr. Allen was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for county treasurer. Of the 2,000 votes cast he received 981—or within 129 of a majority. I opposed him. He carried every township where the ring was in control except Moreland—the home of his opponents. His defeat was due to the hill votes and Commerce. Of the 254 votes cast at Oran Mr. Allen received 197. Don't forget that. Didn't Billy Stubbins support him? Was Mr. Allen's alter man then than now? May it be that since Billy's reformation (2) and plain the church he sees things in a different light? Or might it be that Mr. Allen's criticisms of the methods of the Oran Fair crowd has something to do with his change of heart?

Mr. Allen is now a school director at Oran and has been for years. If there is anything wrong with his conduct as such, it is perfectly proper to inform the people. But I have heard of no complaint.

This mud-slinging is to be expected at this time. The old gang is getting somewhat frazzled at the edge and would like to make Hafner or Allen, or any old thing—except their own past records—the issue in the coming campaign. But I do not believe they will be able to kick up enough dust to blind the people.

They are still doing business over at Washington. The latest is a bill authorizing an increase of salary from president down to congressman. The president is to get \$200 per day while the fellows who foot the bill work for about a dollar a day. The president now receives \$189 a day—including Sundays and holidays—and they seem to think it isn't enough. In addition to this he gets home and everything furnished—including servants.

## Business Locals.

I have farms for sale of various sizes in Scott county, near Crowder, Kelo, New Hamburg, Oran, Morley, Benton, Cary, Blodgett, Diehlstadt and Commerce. Also improved and unimproved lands in the state of Arkansas. If you want to sell, list your farm or property with me. I stand a hundred chances to sell to your own. If you want to buy, see 19 D. H. HARPER, Benton, Mo.

**FOR SALE.**—700 acres of land on Little River in Drain Ditch No. 1. A 10-room house, 2-room tenant house, barn 72x60 and out buildings all in good condition. 200 head of cattle, 50 tons clover hay, Garr-Scotts threshing outfit and farm machinery. Best range for stock in Southeast Missouri. Will sell all or part to right man at a bargain. Wm. Ferguson, Vanduser, Mo.

**FOR SALE OR RENT.**—Good 7-room dwelling, with cellar, water and out-buildings. Known as the C. J. Rush property. Twenty fruit trees on lot. Good drainage. For particulars apply to J. C. Drury, Kelo, Mo. 15-3

**STALLION FOR SALE.**—I have a fine stallion that I will sell cheap. My reason for selling is that I am getting too old to care for him properly. Louis Hahn, New Hamburg, Mo.

**NOTICE.**—I have some fine mules cows for sale. Cash or good notes. 107 W. C. LAMBERT, Benton, Mo.

## "Twentieth Century" Graphophone

16 TIMES LOUDER  
THAN ALL OTHER  
TALKING MACHINES



Wonderful  
Sensational

Epoch  
Making

STYLE PREMIER \$100.

OUR GUARANTEE  
"It reproduces the human  
voice with all the volume  
of the original"

Absolutely New Principles The Latest Invention  
Patented in all Civilized Countries  
REPRODUCES COLUMBIA AND ALL OTHER  
CYLINDER RECORDS

NEW Twentieth Century Cylinder Records HALF FOOT LONG  
SPLENDID FOR DANCING PARTIES

A Perfect Substitute for the Orchestra. Astonishing Results.  
Must be heard to be appreciated

For Sale by Dealers Everywhere and at all the Stores of the

Columbia Phonograph Company, General

Creators of the Talking Machine Industry. Owners of the Fundamental Patents.  
Largest Manufacturers in the World.

GRAND PRIZE, PARIS 1900

DOUBLE GRAND PRIZE, ST. LOUIS 1904

415 Olive Street,

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.